

ACTIVIST NEWS

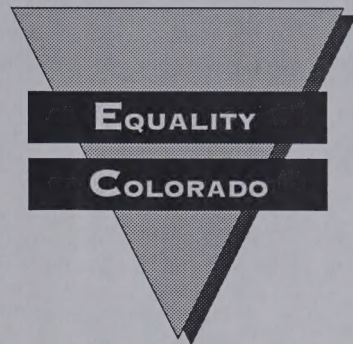
A PUBLICATION OF EQUALITY COLORADO

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JUNE 1997

CU REGENTS MAY DEFEAT BENEFITS

The Regents of the University of Colorado, under strong pressure from conservatives, may now fail to pass a proposal to grant domestic partner benefits to faculty and staff. The Board of Regents was initially to have voted on the proposal at the end of June, but has decided to move up action on the issue to June 4 at the board's budget retreat in Estes Park.

Regent Guy Kelley, D-Fort Collins, had earlier expressed support for the policy. However, he has since shifted his position. According to Kelley, "If we pass this, we have to be able to justify it to the state Legislature" and he worries about having the university collect affidavits about people's personal lives. (Kelley represents all of Congressional District 4, which is represented in Congress by Bob Schaffer).

Of the nine regents, (representing the six US Congressional Districts plus 3 at-large seats) only two are now thought to be solidly in support of the proposal.

► Equality Colorado has tentative plans for a July 22 cyberconference on the issue of domestic partner benefits for all state employees. If you're interested in this or would like more information, contact Equality Colorado.

ACTION!

► If you can contact the regents before June 4, urge them to support this policy as both the right thing to do and as good business. A full list of contact information for the Regents is available by calling us at (303) 839-5540 or visiting our website at www.tde.com/~equality.

Regent Guy Kelley can be reached at 970-220-6970; fax 970-229-7247; address 3404 E. Harmony Road MS 79, Fort Collins, CO 80525, email gkelley@fc.hp.com

Bus Folks Consider DP Benefits

The Regional Transportation District recently attempted to pass "spousal equivalent" benefits for its salaried employees. The issue failed to pass by one vote. For several of the board members, the passage of this benefit would reflect RTD's following through on its mission of inclusion after they adopted sexual orientation in their EEO statement. This offering would be extended to both same-sex and different-sex partners of employees.

Activists with Colorado Legal Initiatives Project believe that if enough people show interest in this issue, the one or two "weak links" on RTD's board would come through with the needed vote.

ACTION!

► Contact board members at:

Regional Transportation District
1600 Blake St.
Denver, CO 80202-1399
(303) 299-2303

Channel 12 Queer TV Lineup Faces Shakeup

Denver's KBDI Channel 12 has been the only long-term resource for LGBT television programming in the Denver area. Thus, it was with dismay that producers of *QTV*, a locally produced gay-oriented TV show, recently learned that Channel 12 would no longer be airing their program. The show will remain on DCTV public access. In addition, *The Lambda Report*, Colorado's longest-running and award-winning LGBT news show, was rescheduled to Sunday nights at 11:00 pm. Producers fear that Channel 12 has simply not heard from their LGBT supporters.

ACTION!

► If LGBT community programming is important to you, write to Ted Krichels General Manager at KBDI Channel 12, 2900 Welton St., Denver, CO 80205. Letters are best, but you can also call (303) 296-1212.

New Haven for Equality

Soon after New Hampshire ("Live Free or Die") became the 10th state to pass legislation to prohibit sexual orientation discrimination, its neighbor Maine joined in on the fun. It took twenty years, but now all six New England states forbid anti-gay discrimination in housing, employment, and public accommodations (Rhode Island, Connecticut, Vermont, and Massachusetts are the others).

In New Hampshire, perhaps the single most important feat of proponents of their bill was getting the Catholic Diocese of Manchester to support it. According to the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, nearly one out of four people in the country live in states where discrimination based on sexual orientation is outlawed. Mainers still face threats from extremists to have the bill repealed through the ballot.

GLSTN Spokespeople on ENDA

As support for the federal Employment Non-Discrimination Act gains strength in Congress, opposition to the bill is increasingly taking the form of painting LGB teachers as a "threat to children." In response, the Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Teachers Network is soliciting educators to be featured in a briefing book which will educate Congresspeople about outstanding LGB educators.

ACTION! Contact Kevin Jennings at GLSTNkev@aol.com or call 212-727-0135. GLSTN is especially looking for educators who have been formally recognized for outstanding performance; teachers who can provide documentation as to their superb performance; teachers who have administrators who will speak up to attest to their performance, and teachers who come from states where votes are in the balance (this means Colorado!).

Neo-Nazis Looking to Chat

A few Neo-Nazi groups are trying to create (again) a usenet group where they want to keep in contact with each other regarding their activities. The group is rec.music.white-power. To create such a group, they have to win a referendum that is always organized when a new usenet group is created. All persons with an email address, and only those, can vote **ONCE** in this referendum.

ACTION! Send an email to <music-vote@sub-rosa.com> with as contents (not 'subject') **ONLY** the following line: **► I vote NO on rec.music.white-power.**

Since the vote is automatic, it is important to send the exact line as it is given above, without adding anything.

News and updates

SPED seeks Program & Volunteer Coordinator: The Speaker's Project to End Discrimination is looking to hire a staff person for 20 hours per week at \$8.00/hour. Job responsibilities include responding to requests, planning speaking engagements, office duties, and more. Interested persons should submit a resume and cover letter to the SPED office at 1245 E. Colfax, Rm. 311B, Denver, CO 80218, or fax (303) 863-0341 ASAP. Direct questions to SPED at (303) 832-6647.

CALENDAR

June 1997

PEOPLES FAIR • Sat. & Sun., June 7 & 8, Civic Center Park, Denver. Come by and visit the Equality Colorado booth! Volunteers still needed. Call Anna at (303) 839-5540 to help out. Elitch tickets for June 26 will be on sale there.

SECOND MONDAYS • June 9, 7:00 p.m., Family of Christ Presbyterian Church, 2410 35th Ave., Greeley. Discussion of upcoming events and speakers bureau. Call Equality or GGLBA at (970)351-1484.

THIRTY YEARS AFTER LOVING • Thursday, June 12, 6:30 p.m., Temple Events Center, 1595 Pearl St., Denver. Commemoration of US Supreme Court case overturning laws that banned interracial marriages. Call (303) 839-5540 for more.

DURANGO PRIDE PICNIC • Saturday, June 21. For more information, call the GLAD line at (970) 247-7778.

GRAND JUNCTION PRIDE PICNIC • Sunday, June 22. For more information, call Out West/Western Equality at (970) 242-8949.

PRIDE DAY AT ELITCH GARDENS • Thursday, June 26. Buy your tickets through Equality Colorado! Call (303) 839-5540. Tickets will be around \$20 each. Also, mark August 21 for Equality's own Pride Day at Elitch Gardens.

JUNE WEDDING • Saturday, June 28, 1:30 p.m., Whatley Chapel, University of Denver Park Hill campus • 19th & Oneida, Denver. Join same-sex couples in a public declaration of their commitment & love. Call (303) 839-5540 for more information.

PRIDEFEST • Sunday, June 29. March begins in Denver's Cheesman Park with a festival in Civic Center Park. Join Equality Colorado's first-ever float!

July 1997

CENTRAL COLORADO EQUALITY DAY • Sunday, July 13, Salida. Cosponsored by Equality Colorado and Collegiate Peaks PFLAG. Call (303) 839-5540 for details.

CLAIMING THE SPIRIT CONFERENCE • Thursday - Sat., July 24 - 26. Featuring Dr. John McNeill, the Shower of Stoles Project, Mandy Carter, and Dr. Ellen Abell. \$60. Call (303) 839-5540.

Denver Auditor Needs to Hear Your Voice

Saying that the City of Denver may not be able to use the Piton Foundation to disburse federal monies to AIDS/HIV providers in the city, Auditor Don Mares is considering what to do about Denver's current contract. The distribution process through the City of Denver is slower and more complex, meaning that some of the agencies depending on the funds may have to wait much longer for their reimbursements, and the lives and health of PWAs may be at stake. It looks like the current contract will be extended for two months while a long-term decision is made.

ACTION! You can contact Donald Mares, Auditor, at 144 West Colfax Ave. Annex III, Room 225, Denver, CO 80202. His phone number is (303) 640-2941 and fax is (303) 640-3372.